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May 23, 2005

**VIA E-FILING AND HAND DELIVERY**

The Honorable Gregory M. Sleet  
United States District Court for the District of Delaware  
J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building  
844 North King St.  
Wilmington, DE 19801

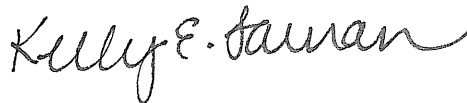
**Re:   Applera Corporation, et al. v. Thermo Electron Corp.;**  
**Thermo Finnigan LLC v. Applera Corporation,**  
**C.A. Nos. 04-1230 , 04-1505 and 05-110**

Dear Judge Sleet:

I write to request a two-week extension of the deadline to file a proposed protective order in the above captioned cases. Thermo has requested the extension and counsel for Applera, MDS, and AB/Sciex ("AB/Sciex") agrees to this extension. The extension is needed because of the unavailability of Thermo's counsel to meet and confer with counsel for AB/Sciex. Thermo apologizes to the Court for the delay. The parties intend to submit a stipulation for the Court's consideration tomorrow.

As always, if the Court has any questions, counsel remain available at the Court's convenience.

Respectfully,



Kelly E. Farnan

KEF:bw

cc:   Clerk of the Court (via e-filing and hand delivery)  
      Josy W. Ingersoll, Esq. (via hand delivery)